Remarks

Claims 8-13 and 16-17 are pending. Claim 18 is canceled and new Claims 22-24 are added in this Response.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 18 was objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. The limitations of allowable Claim 18 have been incorporated into Claims 8 and 16. Claims 8 and 16, therefore, are now in condition for allowance along with Claims 9-13 and 17 which depend from Claims 8 and 16, respectively.

New Claims 22-24

New Claims 22-24 are method counterparts to device Claims 1, 3 and 4 allowed in a sister case, serial no. 10/172,213.

The foregoing is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding office action.

Respectfully submitted,

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